

**MARICOPA COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING**

Meeting of April 11, 2006

LOCATION:	234 N Central Ave, Suite 6400, Parks Conference Room, Phoenix, Arizona 85004
COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:	Laurel Arndt; Celeste Hamilton; Jack Stapley; Randy Virden
COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT:	Raul Chayrez; Anne Lynch; Jill Kusy
STAFF PRESENT:	William Scalzo, Director; Tina Allen, Administrator; Joe Ballengee, Trails Planner; Chris Coover, Regional Trail Manager; Jennifer Waller, Westside Superintendent; Teresa Retterbush, Eastside Superintendent; Don Harris, Park Supervisor-White Tank Mountain Regional Park; John Gunn, Park Supervisor- Spur Cross Ranch Conservation Area; Jennifer Johnston, Park Supervisor-Usery Mountain Regional Park; Ray Martin, Park Maintenance; Alex Stalman, Park Maintenance; Jeff Gruver, Trades Specialist, Sid Gooden, Trades Specialist; John Willis, Trades Specialist; Carolyn Mayberry, Administrative Coordinator; Debbie Lemon, Administrative Coordinator, Ken Mouw, Engineering Manager; Allen Ockenfels, Trails Planner; Fareed Abou-Haidar, Roxana Rojo, Project Manager; Melanie Brown, Grants Coordinator; Bill VanAusdal, MCSO Captain; and William Riske, County Counsel

The official correspondence and staff recommendations contained in this Commission folder are hereby entered as supportive material to the official minutes of the April 11, 2006 Parks and Recreation Commission meeting.

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

ITEM # 1 – CALL TO ORDER – Celeste Hamilton, Chair, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Commission

- Chair Hamilton called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m.

ITEM # 2 – ROLL CALL – Roll Call taken - a quorum was present.

ITEM # 3 – APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 14, 2006 PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETINGS – Celeste Hamilton, Chair, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Commission - ACTION ITEM

- Motion to approve the February 14, 2006 minutes as printed was made by Commissioner Laurel Arndt and seconded by Commissioner Randy Virden. Motion passed unanimously.

ITEM # 4 –RECOGNITION OF USERY MOUNTAIN REGIONAL PARK STAFF AND TRADES SPECIALISTS – William C. Scalzo, Director, Parks and Recreation Department, – INFORMATION/PRESENTATION ITEM

- Director Scalzo recognized the contributions of Jennifer Johnston, the Usery Mountain Staff and the Seven Crew in rewiring campsites at Usery Mountain Regional Park. Following an incident at the park, it was determined that replacing 8 miles of electrical wiring and 82 pedestals at campsites could no longer be deferred maintenance. After having estimates prepared, it was decided that staff of the Seven Crew and Usery Park would complete the project at 25% of the contractor quote. In addition to the wiring and replacing of electrical pedestals, new pedestals were installed for water hook-ups. Director Scalzo noted that he was very impressed with the work that was done and mentioned that even Supervisor, Jennifer Johnston, was down in the trenches.
- Jennifer Johnston, Usery Mountain Regional Park Supervisor gave a PowerPoint presentation with pictures of the work that was done. She mentioned that the original pedestals were installed in 1975. During demolition pedestals were found rusted. The seven crew trades specialists designed equipment to pull the wire. In the end 10 miles of wire was pulled and 2007 bags of concrete were used. Separate water spigots and shut offs were installed at each location on their own dedicated pedestal.
- Director Scalzo presented certificates of appreciation to Jennifer Johnston, Ray Martin, Alex Stalman, John Willis, Sid Gooden and Jeff Gruver.
- Commissioner Arndt asked about the condition of this type of infrastructure at the campgrounds of other parks. Director Scalzo answered that the camp grounds were newer at most other parks (Cave Creek Regional Park-1997, Lake Pleasant-1990's). White Tank Mountain Regional Park would be next in line for improvement.

ITEM #5- DIRECTOR'S SUMMARY OF CURRENT EVENTS – William C. Scalzo, Director, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department – INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEM

- Mr. Scalzo reported that he attended the Oglebay Revenue and Management School held in Wheeling West Virginia. Three employees attended as students (Don Harris, Jennifer Johnston and Jonathan Blyler).
- Tina Allen was commended for her work on the budget and reported that our requests for one-time fund balance uses would be granted.
- Market studies were underway for many of our current positions and any increases would affect our FY07 Budget.
- An electrician position will be added to the Seven Crew for FY07 and we are moving toward adding a Trails Supervisor position. Interviews were held for the position of Assistant Director.
- Jennifer Waller was commended for doing a great job overseeing both Superintendent positions, then she introduced newly hired Eastside Superintendent, Teresa Retterbush.
- The eagle closure at Lake Pleasant was lifted on March 31, 2006 as there had been no successful Bald Eagle breeding.
- White Tank Mountain Regional Park staff along with an eagle scout and his troop had painted eighty percent of their buildings (visitor center).

- Boat docks will soon be in Honeymoon Cove at the Desert Outdoor Center. Grant funding has made the project a reality. The addition will greatly enhance our aquatic education programs at the Desert Outdoor Center.
- Usery Mountain Regional Park has had a very busy spring and that the number of passes sold to date is up by 45 from those sold last year.
- Hike-A-Thon is to be held at Usery Mountain Regional Park on Earth Day.
- East Valley Wild Land Fire Drill was held at Usery Park and that Supervisor Don Stapley's monthly presentation will include it.
- Anthem and Peoria have been helpful in moving forward with governmental agreements to facilitate completion of portions of the Maricopa Trail.
- The judge has dismissed the case by Pensus Group regarding construction of the new Marina at Lake Pleasant, and that talks are proceeding with Peoria concerning zoning.
- The last five (5) year renewal option has become effective regarding Paradise Valley Golf Course.
- Discussions are continuing regarding the 6-L property at Spur Cross Ranch Conservation area. In order to protect the integrity of the property and its archeological resources the department is looking at a cooperative management agreement.
- Irrigation improvements at Estrella Mountain Regional Park are starting and bids open in May for Entry Station improvements, White Tanks is scheduled to be first.
- New staff were introduced: Melanie Brown, Grants Coordinator, Debbie Lemon, Administrative Coordinator and Carolyn Mayberry, Administrative Coordinator. Also noted that interviews for the Public Information Officer position would be conducted April 19, 2006.

ITEM # 6 – REQUEST FROM PINAL COUNTY FOR EASMENT AT SAN TAN MOUNTAIN REGIONAL PARK – Celeste Hamilton, Chair, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Commission – DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEM

- Director Scalzo commented that if the County were to receive compensation adequate to meet disposal criteria that the project should be recommended to the Board of Supervisors for approval. He noted that the project could be potentially very valuable to us, due to the issue of safety/dust. Pinal County should work with our park design personnel. He also commented that he would like to see developers make a contribution to the San Tan Mountain Regional Park, such as one year annual passes as part of their home sales.
- Ken Mouw reported that fencing at San Tan Mountain Regional Park (entire south finger) has already been included in the project to fence at White Tank Mountain Regional Park. The project would begin in 6 – 8 weeks. The entire park is to be fenced once completed.
- Clarification on right of way documents was requested. It was clarified by Stephanie Sullivan that those presented were what Pinal County has used previously.
- Bill Riske and Kevin Costello will work on preparation of documents to be used.
- Commissioner Arndt asked about disbursement of funds received for right of way. Director Scalzo answered that funds would go to San Tan Mountain Regional Park.
- Director Scalzo stated that a realistic appraisal on .9 acres in the area should be considered and completed.

- Chair Hamilton stated that it was important to send a message to the development community that they should be contributing neighbors of the park and developers should provide annual passes for at least one year to home buyers.
 - Chair Hamilton also noted that she liked the idea of collaboration and cooperation on this project, but that we must follow-up and follow through to see that there is appropriate compensation for our land and that funds go to San Tan Mountain Regional Park.
 - Commissioner Arndt stated that we cannot give access to areas we cannot manage. Until we can manage this area we must be sure that people understand that just because there is a road running by the park this does not mean that there is access at that area.
 - Director Scalzo suggested that this part of the road be designated as “no stopping, no parking”.
 - Commissioner Virden moved that the Commission recommend to the Board of Supervisors the approval of the San Tan Mountain Regional Park easement request from Pinal County, provided the following terms be met:
 - a) That just compensation for the easement will be provided (following appraisal).
 - b) The associated developers of new homes are required to provide an annual pass for each new home owner within the development.
 - c) That Gary Road be designated a “NO STOPPING – NO PARKING” road; road adjacent and near the park.
- The motion was second by Laurel Arndt and carried.

ITEM # 7 BLACK MOUNTAIN UPDATE – John Gunn, Supervisor, Spur Cross Ranch Conservation Area – *INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEM/ACTION ITEM*

- John Gunn reported on the status of the Black Mountain property consisting of the top 1/3 of the mountain. In 1972 the County acquired 250 acres of Black Mountain. Since an article in the New Times about hiking in this area there have been concerns about access. School House Road was closed which has caused people to make their own access trails. There is currently north access from Cave Creek Road. However, the town of Cave Creek has permitted construction along our access easement. The Town of Cave Creek has paid for a survey which showed encroachment on our right of way.
- Director Scalzo mentioned that preservation of the area in its current state would preserve the black shale and granite, which is not common in this area.
- Commissioner Arndt questioned Cave Creek requirements to have a legal trail to our property.
- It was noted that at some point we may be asked to bring our trails in this area into compliance with trail standards.
- Mr. Gunn suggested that for the time being our trails keep the designation of “primitive”.
- Our agreement with the Bureau of Land Management continues for another 6-7 years. Some time in the future Cave Creek might be interested in acquiring the land.
- Director Scalzo noted that the Mayor of Cave Creek has done a good job in handling this situation.
- Commissioner Hamilton recommended that there be signage indicating designation of trails as “primitive”.
- Director Scalzo suggested that John Gunn and Teresa Retterbush continue dialogue with Cave Creek.
- No action was taken on this item.

ITEM # 8 FOUNTAIN HILLS GENERAL PLAN AMENDMENT – Fareed Abou-Haidar, GIS Technician, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department – *INFORMATION/DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEM*

- Mr. Abou-Haidar reported that the State has disposed of land adjacent to McDowell Mountain Regional Park and that Fountain Hills wants to annex this land.
- We need to be sure that there is a buffer between existing and new development. The Town Manager of Fountain Hills position is that the park is the buffer.
- Without a buffer residents will make their own trails into the park. This will lead to the possibility of unauthorized trails crossing our competitive track. The current plan is to have a circuit trail. We would need to be reassured that this would not infringe upon the park.
- Fareed mentioned that May 4th is the next town council meeting for Fountain Hills, and a Public Hearing is set for June 13th. Commissioner Arndt stated that she would be attending the May 4th meeting.
- Sun Cor is a potential developer for the area.
- Chair Hamilton suggested that we should be proactive and prepare documentation outlining other projects, how they have been handled and that it be sent to The Town of Fountain Hills. Fareed is to have documents prepared prior to the May 9th Commission Meeting, at which time the final copy is to be signed by Commission members.

ITEM # 9 CHANGE OF MEETING TIME FOR MAY 9th at DESERT OUTDOOR CENTER – Celeste Hamilton, Chair, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Commission – *DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEM*

- Chair Hamilton suggested a change of meeting time from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. for the May 9th meeting at the Desert Outdoor Center which would allow for additional travel time. As there were no objections, the meeting time will be 10:00 a.m. for the May 9, 2006 Commission meeting.

ITEM # 10 – CALL TO THE COMMISSION

- Commissioner Arndt noted that she had been looking at the SRP alignment and how the construction of the new power line left scarring and trails that did not appear to be re-vegetated. She was interested in comments from Jennifer Lawrence. Jennifer said she was satisfied with the work.
- Commissioner Arndt commented on hydro-seeding, but could not see where removal and replacement of old plant materials had taken place. Roxana Rojo indicated that because of the dry season hydro-seeding was deferred at the discretion of the Park Supervisor and SRP.
- Chair Hamilton asked for a show of hands as to who would be at the dedication of the Solar Thermal project on Tuesday. Commissioner Kusy stated she would be in attendance. Staff will check on the possibility of having a quorum present at this time.
- Chair Hamilton thanked all Commissioners for their diligence.
- Director Scalzo announced that R.J. Cardin from the City of Glendale had accepted the position of Assistant Director and would start on May 15, 2006. He has 20 years of experience.
- Commissioner Stapley stated that he was impressed with the candidates interviewed.
- Chair Hamilton also stated she was impressed with the selection process. She felt that from a pool of 200 applicants, those interviewed were the “best of the best”.
- Chair Hamilton congratulated Jennifer Lawrence, now Jennifer Waller on her marriage.
- Chair Hamilton also announced the birthday of Director Scalzo.

Item # 11 – CALL TO THE PUBLIC –

- None

Item # 12 – ADJOURNMENT –

- There being no further business, Celeste Hamilton, Chair, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Commission, adjourned the meeting at 10:50a.m.

William C. Scalzo, Director/Secretary

Celeste Hamilton, Chair

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